

Local Law Filing

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County of Suffolk

Local Law No. 22 of the Year 2018, A Local Law To Require American Sign Language Outreach During Emergencies

FILED
STATE RECORDS

Be it enacted by the County Legislature of the

(Name of Legislative Body)

OCT 10 2018

County of Suffolk as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that there are over 48 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This Legislature also finds and determines that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing are especially vulnerable when natural disasters and public emergencies arise.

This Legislature further finds and determines that one of the many difficulties the deaf and hard of hearing face during times of emergency is the inability to obtain essential, potentially life-saving information from government agencies responsible for emergency management.

This Legislature finds that municipalities like Suffolk County are responsible for natural disaster and emergency response, including providing timely updates and important information to all County residents to ensure maximum preparedness and safety before, during and after the emergency event.

This Legislature determines that, in order to ensure that the messages being provided by the County are available to the largest number of residents possible, American Sign Language interpreters should be utilized at all press conferences during natural disasters and emergencies.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to require that American Sign Language interpreters be present at all County press conferences held in relation to natural disasters and other emergency circumstances.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

COMMISSIONER – the Commissioner of the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services.

DISASTER – as defined in New York State Executive Law § 20(2).

EMERGENCY SITUATION – any disaster, rioting, catastrophe, severe weather, flooding or similar event, regardless of whether a state of emergency has been officially declared by the State or any local government.

EMERGENCY SITUATION PRESS CONFERENCE – a press conference relating to or involving the planning for, or responding to, an emergency situation.

PRESS CONFERENCE – a meeting organized by a County official, employee or other representative of the County of Suffolk which has one or more journalists and other representatives of the media present for the purpose of officially distributing information to the media and the public and to answer questions.

QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER – an interpreter fluent in American Sign Language who meets the requirements set forth in New York State Judiciary Law § 390.

Section 3. Sign Language Interpreters at Emergency Situation Press Conferences.

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner to ensure that qualified and certified American Sign Language interpreters are available to provide sign language interpretation services at all emergency situation press conferences. Such interpreters shall be present and provide such services at each emergency situation press conference held by any officer, official, employee or agent of the County. To the greatest extent possible, the Commissioner shall ensure that the sign language interpreter shall be physically positioned in a manner that his or her face, body, arms and hands are visible in the video transmission of the press conference at all times.
- B. The Commissioner shall establish protocols for securing the services of qualified and certified American Sign Language interpreters at all emergency situation press conferences.

Section 4. Applicability.

This law shall apply to all emergency situation press conferences occurring on or after the effective date of this law.

Section 5. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 6. SEQRA Determination.

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and/or (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect 120 days following its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of _____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____, _____ in accordance with the applicable

(Name of Legislative Body)

Provisions of law.

2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer*.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. 22 of 2018 of the (County) of _____ Suffolk _____ was duly passed by the

County Legislature _____ on September 5, 2018, and was approved by the

(Name of Legislative Body)

County Executive _____ and was deemed duly adopted on September 24, 2018 in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

3. (Final adoption by referendum).

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of _____ of the County of _____ Suffolk _____ was duly passed by the Suffolk County Legislature on _____.

(Name of Legislative Body)

and was approved by the _____ County Executive on _____.

(Elective Chief Executive Officer)

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a mandatory referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the general election held on _____, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum).

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. _____ of _____, of the (County) of _____ Suffolk _____ was duly passed by the _____

County Legislature _____ on _____ and was (approved)

(Name of Legislative Body)

by the Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone on _____ Such local law was submitted

(Elective Chief Executive Office)

to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of _____, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. ____ of ____, of the City of _____ having been submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on _____, became operative.

6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, designated as local law No. ____ of ____ of the County of _____ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November _____, ____ pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph 2, above.

Clerk of the County legislative body, City, Town, or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

(Seal)

Date: 9/27/18

(Certification to be executed by County Attorney, Corporation Counsel, Town Attorney, Village Attorney or other authorized attorney of locality.)

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF Suffolk

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing local law contains the correct text and the all proper proceedings have been had or taken for the enactment of the local law annexed hereto.

Signature

County Attorney

Title

County

of Suffolk

Date: 10/2/2018